

Moieties

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Normally if a man belongs to Yenama, his oldest son will be Minjama, his next oldest Yenama, and so on. If however, there is a preponderance of members in either moiety this is adjusted by shifting the alternation. Examples follow of three men and their sons and their moieties.



The equality of the moieties can also be adjusted by buying a young man with a pig into the moiety whose numbers are low. Normally a man belongs to the moiety into which he is first adopted but if chosen by the elders as a good worker, may change if he gives a pig and can sing for a long time without sitting down or sleeping.

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The minjama (sugwi) (carved figures) at the yam cult ceremonies associated with each moiety are for Yenama-- a number of small carved human heads; and for Minjama, a full carved figure of a man and several small human heads. These figures are exhibited by a number of the cult during the time of the ceremonies; at other times they are kept in the owner's dwelling.

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Women belong as do their husbands. During a Yenama ceremony the Minjama women turn their net bags toward the house tambaran; the Yenama women turn the back of the bag toward it, so that the men at the other side of the sib can tell their affiliations. A woman whose husband has seen both ceremonies is permitted to turn her bag either way. Men of Minjama have intercourse with women of Yenama while their husbands are attending the ceremony, and vice versa.